

Claims

1. Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) of the ATM network type comprising a plurality of switching nodes (12, 14, 16, 18) interconnected by connection lines, each of said switching nodes being associated with a control point being in charge of determining the best route between any source node (12) and any destination node (18) when a connection has to be established therebetween by identifying which of the connection lines are eligible based upon the requirement of a quality of service ;
said network being characterized in that each one of said plurality of switching nodes comprises Control ATM Test Application (CATMTA) means (22) and Deamon ATM Test Application (DATMTA) means (32) so that, at any time, a user interfacing a source node can test the connectivity of a network connection from said source node to a destination node by initiating a connection procedure wherein a call setup message is sent by the CATMTA means of said source node to said destination node and the DATMTA means of said destination node send back an acknowledgment message to said source node.

2. Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) according to claim 1, wherein said Control ATM Test Application (CATMTA) means (22) comprise means for sending a verification data stream to said destination node after receiving said acknowledgment message and said Deamon ATM Test Application (DATMTA) means (32) comprise means for sending back a response data stream after receiving said verification data stream, said verification and response data streams being used to check the characteristics of the connection previously established between said source node and said destination node.

3. Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) according to claim 1 or 2, being an Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) network.

4. Asynchronous connection-oriented transmission network (10) according to claim 1 or 2, being a Frame Relay network.